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Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
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SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

City Centre Opens

- Curbs on 91 streets lifted after 50 days
- Only 50 percent of hospitals, clinics resume service

A view of D. Devaraj Urs Road, Sayyaji Rao Road, K.T. Street and Ashoka Road in the Central Business District this morning as shops were allowed to open after a long break. Also, a textile shop on K.T. Street displays neatly draped mannequins to attract customers. Apart from clothes, shops selling metal vessels, copper and brass water containers and metal lamps opened up near Gandhi Square.

Mysuru, May 14 (OSR)- On Day 50 of the nationwide lockdown, there was light at the end of the tunnel. As Mysuru was so far able to bend the curve of Novel Coronavirus, shops selling non-essential goods were asked by the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) to open from seven this morning. However, they need to ensure that they down the shutters by 7 pm.

Mysuru is still a Red Zone amid the Coronavirus pandemic and the city is inching towards becoming an Orange Zone with no COVID-19 positive cases for 14 consecutive days — a classification that has to be declared and officially confirmed by the Centre. After days of seeing only grocery and medical shops open, Mysuru's commercial areas certainly looked different this morning as the MCC that had banned businesses on 91 streets finally allowed traders to carry on with their business-es. There was heavy traffic and people presence as barricades were removed.

Ninety percent of shops were open on streets including D. Devaraj Urs Road, Sayyaji Rao Road, Ashoka Road, Chamaraja Double Road, Old Santhepet, K.T. Street, New Kantharaj Urs Road, Vishwamanava Double Road, Kalidasa Road, Agrahara, Temple Road, V.V. Mohalla, Gokulam, near Vijayanagar Water Tank, Surya Bakery, Nanjumalige Market, Ramanuja Road, Narayana Shastri Road, Shivarampet, Nazarbad Main Road, C.V. Road, Gandhi Square, Nelson Mandela Road, Dhanvantri Road and other commercial hubs.

(See CITY on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya

Private hospitals, clinics hesitate to open

Though the Karnataka Government has allowed private clinics, hospitals and nursing homes to open their doors to non-COVID patients on the condition that they immediately report Coronavirus cases to the local health authorities, only 50 percent of the hospitals resumed work this morning. Some of them are handling only emergency cases with the Outpatient Department closed. Many doctors admit that they would not like to take a risk at a time when thousands of people are coming to Karnataka as train and air services – though limited – have been open.

Reacting on the development, Indian Medical Association (IMA), Mysuru Chapter, President Dr. Suresh Rudrappa told 'Star of Mysore' that the COVID-19 positive cases are set to increase with travel restrictions easing up. "There will be a surge and we are not equipped to handle an outbreak. Each hospital has been asked to set up a COVID Ward and in case any positive patient comes to our hospitals, the doctors and the nursing staff will be quarantined and the hospital will be sanitised. Why to take risk," he asked.

Dr. Suresh opined that opening up of the lockdown after a good control period will lead to community spread.

Rotary District 3181 builds

50 houses for Kodagu flood victims

Madikeri / Mysuru, May 14 (PS&BCT)- At a time when the victims of 2018's devastating floods and landslips in Kodagu are still to be fully rehabilitated as most of the houses meant to be constructed for them are yet to see the light of day even two years after the tragedy, Rotary International District 3181 has handed over 50 houses for flood victims.

Unprecedented rains, landslips and floods devastated lives and properties in Kodagu in 2018. Many villages were wiped out as mud came crashing down carrying everything in its path — trees, mud, electric poles and houses. It has been a tough two-year journey for those who lost their homes, hard-earned money and properties.

Between Aug. 5 and Aug. 19, 2018, unprecedented rains triggered by cloudbursts, floods and landslides brought untold misery to the people of Kodagu and over 30 percent of land in Madikeri and Somwarpet taluks was destroyed in previously unheard of havoc that was unleashed by nature, rendering hundreds of people homeless.

Though the State Government, in 2018, launched an ambitious project to build 835 houses in phases, there has been a long delay. Only 423 houses that were promised in the first phase of rehabilitation project has been completed at Jamboor and Katakeri by Nirmithi Kendra.

The tragedy, however, is that the houses have not been handed over to the deserving. Only 35 houses that have been constructed in Karnangeri have been handed over to beneficiaries. The construction of the remaining 412 houses is yet to begin.

In the light of this delay, the work done by Rotary International District 3181 has caught everyone's attention. 50 houses that were built in two phases have been handed over and the latest group of 25 houses were handed over to beneficiaries on May 10 (last Sunday) at Gargandhur-Madapura areas. The first phase of 25 homes were handed over on June 18 last year at Iggodlu-Madapura in the presence of Past Rotary International President Kalyan Bannerjee.

Worst affected and most deserving

Rotary has spent Rs. 2.56 crore for 50 homes. Speaking to 'Star of Mysore,' Rebuild Kodagu Trust Project Chairman and Past District Governor Dr. K. Ravi Appaji said that the 50 families were selected on the basis of selective criteria of worst affected and most deserving.

Immediate Past District Governor P. Rohinath is the Rebuild Kodagu Trust Chairman and Past District Governor Krishna Shetty is the Treasurer with District Governor Joseph Mathew and District Governor-Elect Ranganath Bhat as members.

The beneficiaries were identified by the community leaders and stakeholders of the Rotary project. "They were local people and among those who were not chosen to be supported by the Government. The land and title belonged to the beneficiaries and homes were built on their own land instead of building houses at an unfamiliar surrounding. Some of the houses had just plastic sheets wrapped in bamboo poles with a makeshift covering on top," he said.

The victims were living under constant fear of wind and rain. "Each home cost Rs.5.05 lakh and contributions from donors, Rotarians, friends and others all over country and abroad were collected," he added.

Saramma, a beneficiary of Rotary house rebuilding activity, is seen with Past Rotary District Governors Nagarjun, Krishna Shetty, Immediate Past District Governor P. Rohinath, Past Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee (third from right), Rebuild Kodagu Trust Project Chairman and Past District Governor Dr. K. Ravi Appaji (second from right), District Governor-Elect Ranganath Bhat and other dignitaries.

Social distancing

Due to Corona lockdown and restrictions, no stage ceremony invites or other formal arrangements were done. Homes were handed over in a simple way maintaining social distance. "This was done for the benefit and convenience of the beneficiary families so that they could occupy the houses before the monsoon rains started this year. Any finishing work like final coat of paint and sponsor nameplates will be done in the due course," Dr. Appaji said.

This project was initiated and encouraged by Past Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee along with Past Rotary International Director C. Basker in association with Habitat for Humanity India and senior leadership. "It was supported by all the District Governors, Chairman of Birla Group Rajashree Birla, sponsorships through Past Rotary International President Rajaa Saboo, Rotary International President Nominee Shekar Mehta, Rotary International Director Dr. Bharat Pandya, Rotary International Director Kamal Sanghvi, Rotary India Literacy Mission RILM, Rotary News Trust, Rotary International Director Nominee (RIDN) Dr. Ravi Vadlamani, RIDN Venkatesh, Past District Governor Dr. Devdas Rai, Rotary District 3181 grants, all District Governors, all Past Governors, Rotary leaders, Presidents various Rotary Clubs and individual Rotarians, institutional donors and philanthropists," he said.

Houses being handed over to the beneficiaries following social distancing norms.

Govt. houses wait for a VVIP to be handed over to victims

Madikeri / Mysuru, May 14 (PS&BCT)- The over 423 houses that were promised in the first phase of rehabilitation project that has been completed at Jamboor and Katakeri by Nirmithi Kendra are yet to be handed over to the 2018 flood victims.

The houses have been fully completed and are awaiting the arrival of a VVIP to be handed over to the flood victims. Of the 423 houses, 318 have been built at Jamboor and 280 of them have been completed with all facilities including roads, water and electricity. 70 houses have been constructed at Katakeri.

Each house has been built with pre-cast concrete. Rs. 9.80 lakh has been spent on each house and the areas that have been identified to build houses are certified by Geological Survey of India (GSI) as flood-and-landslide-proof. Each concrete mould house has been designed according to 'M-20 Grade Design' and the built area is 425 square feet.

Modern techniques have been used to build the houses and each house has 2 bedrooms, a hall and a kitchen. The houses are fire and earthquake-resistant and have all the modern facilities. Sources in Kodagu District Administration told 'Star of Mysore' that Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa will visit Kodagu on May 29 and a decision will be taken to arrange an event to hand over the houses. However, the authorities are awaiting confirmation from the CM's Office.

Regarding the second phase of the house rebuilding works where there is a target of building 412 houses, officials said that the project has been hampered by COVID-19. "Most of the migrant construction workers have left Kodagu to their native villages in other States and there is a workforce shortage to take up the house construction works at this juncture. Hopefully, the situation will ease in the near future," officials said.

VOICE OF THE READER

Plea to announce Mysore University BCA Sem revaluation results

Sir,

The Government is permitting for all the shops and other activities to be open but how about the students, who are waiting for their revaluation results from the University of Mysore of 5th semester BCA since January?

They are at the last point of graduation. Many of them are recruited for companies and insisted to do work from home but they need 5th semester results before joining.

As the result mode is online, I do not understand what is the connection between COVID-19 lockdown and the result announcement. At least now the University authorities can take a step towards it and help the students in getting their results.

— P. Ramachandra
on e-mail

Mysuru
13.5.2020

MCC tax collection via Property Index Number: A welcome move

Sir,

This refers to the news item **"MCC collects tax through Property Index Number"** in *Star of Mysore* yesterday. It is a welcome move and a first stage of going online.

What is missing is the fact that if there are any discrepancy noted in the print out, like name, address, built up area and others, where should the owner go for corrections and when?

Is there a Form to be filled up seeking necessary corrections? Can MCC officials clarify this requirement?

— A.V. Prasanna

Mysuru
14.5.2020

NCC cadets hand over locally made face masks to Mysuru DC

Mysuru, May 14- With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to harrow everyone, especially the frontline workers tasked to mitigate the crisis, in a commendable gesture worthy of emulation, NCC Girl Cadets from NCC Group, Mysuru, had come forward with the initiative of locally stitched high quality pleated cotton face masks for District Authorities. The first lot of masks have been handed over to Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar at his Office.

As per PMO's directions on "Mask India Movement" 3 Karnataka Girls Battalion NCC, Mysuru, took initiative of stitching masks. It started when a cadet Kalpana made masks at her home for people from her native village. And more Cadets named Cdt. Sowjanya, Cdt. Divya Kumari, Cdt. Ananya R. Shetty, Cdt. A. Pooja, Cdt. Ranjitha and Cdt. Deeksha along with the Administrative Officer of the Unit and lady instructors of the Battalion GCI K. Divya Suresh, GCI Lekshmi Das, GCI K.P. Divya, all from Mysuru Group NCC, have joined the effort. Ex-serviceman Chettimada U. Janardhan has contributed towards the logistics.

It is a proud moment for them since the initiative was started by the girls themselves further motivated by the Commanding Officer 3 Karnataka Girls Battalion NCC, Mysuru for the cause of humanity. They are doing a great deal of work sourcing cotton clothes themselves and stitching high quality pleated masks. Since the lockdown has made availability of cotton scarce, NCC is working on sourcing the clothes to the girls.

JK Tyre develops and produces 'Total Control Hand Sanitiser'

Dr. Raghupati Singhania

Mysuru, May 14- Indian tyre industry major and the pioneer of radial tyre technology in the country, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., has taken yet another step towards its commitment to the nation by producing hand sanitisers under the brand 'Total Control Hand Sanitiser.'

Dr. Raghupati Singhania, Chairman & Managing Director, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., said, "The JK Tyre Total Control Hand Sanitizer is our latest contribution towards ongoing relief measures of the Government in countering the pandemic. This sanitiser has been developed and produced strictly in accordance with the standards. We will continue with our efforts to fight this pandemic."

JK Tyre developed this sanitiser at its Global Tech Centre "The Raghupati Singhania Centre of Excellence" in Mysuru as per the guidelines issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and acquired all the necessary approvals and licenses within a record time period of eight days. The Company has undertaken the production of the sanitiser at Jay Kay Gram, Kankroli Plant, Rajasthan.

In addition to contributing to the relief efforts of the Company through distribution in local communities, the sanitiser is also being made available to the entire ecosystem, such as the dealer network and channel partners to ensure right hygiene.

Obituary

Rathnamma

Nanjangud, May 14- Rathnamma (58), wife of City Council Member and Congress leader S. Gangadhar, passed away yesterday at her residence in NGO Colony here. She leaves behind her husband, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at the burial grounds next to Lingabhattara Gudi on the banks of Kapila River, according to sources.

Tipu Sultan Wakf Estate donates Rs. 20 lakh to CM's Relief Fund

Srirangapatna, May 14 (KS)- To support the State Government, Hazarath Tipu Sultan Shaheed Wakf Estate at Gumbaz in Srirangapatna has donated Rs. 20 lakh to the Chief Minister's COVID-19 Relief Fund for the purchase of medical equipment, medicines and food grains to be distributed among the needy. The cheque for Rs. 20 lakh was given by President of Tipu Sultan Wakf Estate and MLA Tanveer Sait recently.

Also, the Wakf Estate has distributed grocery kits worth Rs. 22.5 lakh to the needy people, according to a press release.

MUDA to introduce online tax payment and khata registration system soon: Commissioner

Mysuru, May 14- MUDA Commissioner Dr. D.B. Natesh, who took charge recently, has said that MUDA will be introducing online property tax payment and khata registrations coming under its jurisdiction, in a span of about 6 weeks.

Dr. Natesh told *Star of Mysore* that people are currently required to pay property taxes standing at MUDA counters and as the counters are closed for the past two months due to COVID-19 lockdown, people are unable to pay taxes that are due to MUDA. But the online system which is proposed to be introduced soon will enable the people to pay taxes from the comforts of their home, he noted.

Referring to housing issue, the Commissioner said that as part of Group Housing Scheme, the MUDA has planned to construct multi-floor residential complexes at different localities in the city at an affordable cost to citizens.

Stating that a proposal in this regard will be sent to the Government soon for getting approval, he said that it has been planned to visit other States which have popularised Group Housing Schemes, to study the concept and pricing there and implement the same in the city.

Highlighting that it was important to safeguard and secure MUDA properties across the city and also look at ways for enhancing revenue earnings, he said that right now, MUDA is looking at accomplishing the goals set out in this year's Budget.

Underlining the need for saving documents, he said that all files will be scanned and digitised using the right software in order to ensure that no files go missing.

Declaring that a study has been initiated to digitise all Sectional and Zonal Offices of MUDA in order to introduce online transactions here too, he said that this measure will largely help in maintaining transparency in functioning.

Referring to Ring Road street light maintenance, he said that the District Minister has directed both MUDA and MCC to foot 50 percent of the power bills each. Accordingly MUDA will remit its share to clear pending power bills.

The implementation of the Peripheral Ring Road project envisaged earlier will be discussed in the next General Body meeting following which necessary action will be taken, he added.

SOM impact: City couple extends help to Koravanjis

Suresh Subbarao, a retired employee of a private company in city and his wife neurologist Dr. Ratnavalli, who learnt about the plight of Koravanjis after reading a special feature titled "Soothsayer Koravanjis of Mysuru stare at bleak future" published in 'SOM' on May 3, distributed ration kits to 62 Koravanji families residing at Yellamma Colony in Bannimantap, Mysuru, recently in the presence of Colony leader Ramesh. Each kit includes 10 kg rice, 5 kg ragi flour, cooking oil, sugar, dal, 2 kg onion and bathing soap.

Decoding Mythology

Dr. Devdutt Pattanaik - Author, Speaker, Illustrator, Mythologist

Fourteen jewels from the sea

The churning of the ocean of milk is a key theme found in temples across ancient Southeast Asia indicating the spread of Hindu ideas there between the 3rd and 13th century. This story is linked to kingship and enterprise as it shows how Vishnu gets the eternally quarrelling devas and asuras to collaborate and churn out of the ocean all the treasures that make life worth living.

Traditionally, we are told that fourteen magnificent jewels emerged from the sea. The list varies in the various puranas, but what is important is this: this tale was narrated in royal coronation ceremonies earlier and continues to be narrated during wedding ceremonies today, because coronations and weddings hold the promise of a churning of the ocean of milk, and produce all wonderful things that make life wonderful. These auspicious symbols also appear in the dreams of women who are about to bear great holy men, according to Jain traditions.

So, what are these fourteen things? There is no standard list, but whatever the list is, the fourteen treasures can be classified under 4 headings: dharma (responsibility), artha (success), kama (fun), and moksha (freedom). These are the four pillars that validate human existence say Hindu scriptures. The symbols of responsibility are the elephant, the horse and the bow. These are associated with kingship. The king rides the elephant to show his might. He is the Gajapati. The king also rides chariots and horses. He is then Ashwapati. He holds the bow in his hand which is a symbol of balance and poise as well as focus. Sometimes, an umbrella or a 'chhatri' is also said to have emerged from the ocean of milk as well as a footstool. This makes him Chhatrapati, who shelters all under his parasol. Dharma is about power given to kings, because they are supposed to have the poise, strength, gravitas and the capability to shelter everyone around us. Dharma is about power used to take care of others.

The symbols of Artha are symbols of wealth, prosperity and success. Plant wealth is represented by a tree, either called Parijat or Kalpataru. Animal wealth is represented by a cow, Kamdhenu. Mineral wealth is represented by a jewel called Chintamani and by Goddess Laxmi, who rises in a lotus flower, bedecked with jewels, and represents splendour, fame and glory.

What about Kama? What does Kama or pleasure involve? It involves the beautiful woman embodied in the apsara, Rambha. The beautiful man embodied in the moon God, Soma. It is embodied in the God of alcohol, Varuni. Some say health or Dhanvantari is also associated with Kama deva, because how can there be fun, if there is no health? And in some lists, Nidradevi, or the Goddess of sleep, is also recognised, because that is also pleasurable: to sleep without a care in the world.

That leaves Moksha. Moksha is represented by 2 things; one is Halahal, the poison, and Amruta, the nectar. Halahal reminds us of death, of the date when we will die. It motivates us to think about next generation, about delegation and talent management, and retirement and letting go. Amruta, which takes away the fear of death, is wisdom or 'atmagyan', knowledge of the immortal soul, that enables us to outgrow our own desire while satisfying other people's desire. For when we are not afraid of death, of retirement, of being forgotten, we do not cling to our wealth and status, and learn to be generous. The fourteen symbols are a reminder what married couples must strive to create in their homes, kings must strive to create in their kingdom and entrepreneurs in their enterprise.

[devdutt@devdutt.com

City Corporation undertakes cleaning of storm water drain ahead of monsoon

Disinfectant sprayed at Devaraja Market, public toilets

Mysuru, May 14 (YDS&KS)- In a bid to prevent rain water from clogging and flowing into houses in low lying places, the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) is undertaking the cleaning of the 13 km-long storm water drain (Raja Kaaluve) in MCC Zone-3 limits in city.

Every time the rain pounds the city, overgrown bushes and weeds that had grown inside the drain, prevented the smooth flow of rain water in the drain. This was resulting in the rain water overflowing from the drain and entering houses causing a lot of problems to the residents.

Considering all these facts, MCC Zone-3 Developmental Officer Sathyamurthy is undertaking the cleaning of the 13 km-long storm water drain in his limits. On May 4, Developmental Officer Sathyamurthy undertook the cleaning of the drain near Sharadadevinagar and Bogadi with the help of 15 labourers, one earth moving machine and a tipper.

Speaking to *SOM*, Sathyamurthy said that the cleaning of the 13 km-long storm water drain has begun and added the D.K. Constructions has provided the earth moving machine and the tipper free of cost to be utilised for the cleaning purpose. Already, 4 km of the 13 km-long drain has been cleaned with only 9 km-long remaining to be cleaned, Sathyamurthy said.

Disinfectant sprayed

Following relaxation of lockdown rules and the public coming to Devaraja Market for purchase of fruits, vegetables and other essential commodities, the MCC Abhaya Team sprayed disinfectant inside and outside the market and the public toilets on Saturday afternoon.

MCC Health Officer Dr. Nagaraju said that spraying of disinfectant is being undertaken at all bus shelters, houses, markets, public toilets and other places in all 65 Wards in city.

Truck transporting 250 quintal

Anna Bhagya scheme rice to Kerala seized

Mysuru, May 14 (RK&KS)- Police personnel manning the check post near Nanjangud have seized a truck which was transporting 250 quintal (500 bags) 'Anna Bhagya' scheme rice to Kerala illegally and have arrested one person in this regard.

On Tuesday evening, the Police personnel, who intercepted the truck with Kerala registration number plate at the check post near Hejjige Bridge, found that the truck was transporting 250 quintal rice to Kerala without relevant documents. It is learnt that the truck was transporting the rice bags from the rice mill at Kirugaval village in Malavalli taluk of Mandya district.

Food and Civil Supplies Department Joint Director Shivanna and staff, who rushed to the spot, conducted mahazar. Nanjangud Rural Sub-Inspector Satish, who has registered a case, has arrested one person in this regard besides seizing the rice bags laden truck.

Following complaints that 'Anna Bhagya' scheme rice meant to be distributed to the poor was being smuggled and sold at black markets, the Police and the Food and Civil Supplies Department are investigating separately.

Kannada actor 'Michael' Madhu passes away

Bengaluru, May 14- Sandalwood actor 'Michael' Madhu, known for his comedy roles, passed away at KIMS Hospital in Bengaluru last evening. He was 51.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters. According to reports, Madhu was taken to KIMS Hospital after he collapsed at his home yesterday noon.

Michael Madhu has acted in over 300 movies including 'Shh,' 'OM,' 'Love Training' among other movies in his career spanning over 15 years. He had earned the name 'Michael' for his ability of imitating legendary Michael Jackson dances.

Last rites at Banashankari Crematorium today, according to sources.

'Seva Sindhu' and 'Aarogya Setu' Apps Download Drive begins

Dr. R. Balasubramaniam of SYVM launching the Drive by downloading the apps on a mobile phone at Agrahara Circle this morning as MLA S.A. Ramdas and others look on. Picture rights shows Volunteers guiding public to download Aarogya Setu and Seva Sindhu apps at the centre set up near Ballal Circle today.

Mysuru, May 14 (RKB& BNR)- KR Constituency MLA S.A. Ramdas, with an aim to make a minimum of 1 lakh people download the Mobile Apps developed by the Government for the welfare of people, today is leading the Karnataka State Government's 'Seva Sindhu' and Central Government's 'Aarogya Setu' Apps Download Drive at all the 19 Wards coming under his Constituency.

Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Founder, Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SYVM), formally launched the Drive by downloading the apps on a mobile phone at Agrahara Circle this morning in the presence of MLA Ramdas, BJP leader H.V. Rajeev, Srihari of GSS Foundation, former CII Mysuru Chairman Bhaskar Kalale (President and GM - India Operations, Theorem India Pvt. Ltd.), Corporators Sowmya Umesh and B.V. Manjunath, RSS City Sanchalak R. Vasudev Bhat, Mysuru Travels Association President B.S. Prashanth and others.

The drive aims to create awareness on Atma-nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (or Self-reliant India Mission) and Rs.20 lakh crore special economic package announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and over Rs.1,600 crore Lockdown Relief announced by State Government led by B.S. Yediyurappa.

As part of the drive today, tents have been erected at the following places to guide people on downloading 'Seva Sindhu' and 'Aarogya Setu' at Ward 43 – Sharadadevinagar Circle, 47 – Akshaya Bhandar, 48 – Jayanagar Sri Rama Mandira, 49 – Nanjumalige Circle, 50 – Siddappa Square, 51 – Agrahara Cirlce, 52 – M.G. Road Market, 53 – Siddarthanagar's Ganapathy Temple, 54 – Hunsemara Circle, 55 – Chamundipuram Circle, 56 – Ballal Circle, 57 – Shanti Sagar Complex, 59 – Vivekanandanagar Circle, 60 – Silk Factory Circle, 61 – Chamundi Vana, 62 – J.P. Nagar Gobbalimara Circle, 63 – J.P. Nagar Last Stop, 64 – KSRTC Depot Circle and 65 – Bhramarambha Kalyana Mantapa.

Speaking after the launch, Dr. Balasubramaniam said: "India's fight against Coronavirus is gaining attention at international level. Attempts are on to make India Corona-free soon. Just because lockdown has been relaxed, people should not forget to take precautions and must continue using masks and sanitisers. We must create awareness among everyone." He also asked people to stop buying foreign goods and encourage Swadeshi goods which will in turn help in economic growth.

MLA Ramdas said: "We will get a clear picture on which all sectors will come under 'Seva Sindhu' after the State Cabinet meeting today. Hence, auto drivers, who will be one of the beneficiaries, should keep their Driving License (DL), Badge, Bank Account Number and Aadhaar Card ready and approach the browsing centre and register."

Also, Ramdas urged people to donate minimum of Rs.10 towards PM CARES and CM Relief Funds and said that along with Apps downloading drive, volunteers will also guide willing people to donate for the same.

Stating that they aim to make minimum 1 lakh people download these apps during the drive today, Ramdas also said that they would continue to create awareness in order to take the number to 2 lakh by the end of this month.

Beneficiaries can visit the following browsing centres and apply for various schemes and financial aid by paying Rs.20 for registration & uploading of forms:

- C.S.C. Centre, No.98/3, New Sayyaji Rao Road, next to Anagha Hospital, K.R. Mohalla [Contact Shylendra - Mob: 70197-51946 or Ph: 0821-4260685]
- M.V. Manjunath, No. 1534/4, M.G. Road, V.V. Market, opp. Bus Stand, Agrahara, Mysuru [Mob: 94834-85262]
- Pooja Studio, No. 215, 4th Cross, Shankar Mutt Road, opposite Shanidevara Temple, Mysuru [M.R. Bhaskar - Mob: 99452-97529]
- Sri Basavesgwara Enterprises, No. 973, Vani Vilas Road, opposite RTO, Chamarajapuram, Mysuru [S. Ramachandra Murthy - Mob: 95908-81888]
- Vijayalakshmi Enterprises, No. 862, 13th Cross, Ramanuja Road, K.R. Mohalla, Mysuru [Manjunath - Ph: 0821-2333175 or 4247836; Mob: 94838-86175 or 99869-88175]

Rs. 45 lakh Tirupati Darshan that was not meant to be

Two Mysureans con Bengaluru businessman promising Special Darshan and deity's robes

Bengaluru, May 14 (BCT)- Two Mysureans are in the dock for allegedly duping a 75-year-old businessman from Bengaluru of Rs. 45 lakh after promising to get him a '*Special Darshan*' of the presiding deity Lord Venkateshwara at Tirumala in Tirupati and also the clothes draped on the idol. The Hanumanthanagar Police are now on the lookout for the duo.

The victim has been identified as Madhava Rao, a resident of Hanumanthanagar in Bengaluru. He was allegedly duped by M.G. Raghuram and his friend Sheshadri, both residents of Mysuru. Madhava Rao realised that he has been cheated only after the money was paid and more money was demanded. In his complaint, Madhava Rao alleged that he and his wife had gone to Tirupati in 2018 and the prime accused Raghuram, who met them there, claimed to be close to the top Tirupati Temple Trustees and offered to help them get direct *Darshan* of the deity.

Believing him, Rao also introduced some of his relatives to Raghuram who later asked for money to arrange for the Darshan. Rao paid him Rs. 45 lakh as fee for a special pass for him and his relatives. After receiving the amount, Raghuram said the application for special *Darshan* had been submitted and was under process.

Raghuram had also promised Rao that he will help him get silk cloth that is on the deity along with a bag made of deerskin. Over a period of time, Rao asked Raghuram about his promise. The accused even made his associate Sheshadri, claiming himself to be an office-bearer of the Temple Trust, confirm the status of the application and offered to get the date of *Darshan* and the deity's robes soon.

But even waiting for over a year, Rao did not get his *Darshan* and could not reach out to Raghuram. After much pestering, Raghuram told Rao that he had sent the bag through his friend Sheshadri but officials of the Forest Vigilance Cell had seized the deerskin bag along with his car.

He then demanded more money to wriggle out of the 'case'. That's when Madhava Rao got suspicious and approached the Police last week.

Hanumanthanagar Police Inspector C.V. Ravi, confirming that a case of cheating has been registered in this regard, told *Star of Mysore* that investigation into the case has begun. Both the accused named in the case are said to be from Mysuru and the Police are on the lookout for the absconding duo, he added.

City free from Containment Zones

Residents of Nazarbad led by Corporator Satish showering flower petals on the Corona Warriors from various Departments to express their gratitude this morning.

Mysuru, May 14 (RK&KS)- The residents of Nazarbad and J.P. Nagar were in a joyous mood and the localities wore a festive look today after they were cleared from Containment Zones. Janatha Nagar and Kuvempunagar were cleared of Containment Zones yesterday and with Nazarbad and J.P. Nagar cleared today, Mysuru City is now free from Containment Zones. These four localities were classified as Containment Zones for 28 days and after completion of the Containment period, the localities have been cleared.

The residents thanked the officials of Health, Revenue and Police Departments and MCC officials for taking care of them by providing milk, grocery, fruits and vegetables, medicines etc., spraying disinfectants and fogging every day to prevent the spread of the virus.

At Nazarbad today, the residents of the area, led by Corporator Satish, showered flower petals on the Corona Warriors of various Departments and also MCC officials, who had strived hard during the containment period.

Devaraja Sub-Division ACP Shashidhar, Nazarbad Inspector G.N. Srikant, MCC Zonal Officer H.N. Nagaraj, Pourakarmikas, Health workers, ASHA workers and all those who had served during the containment period were felicitated on the occasion.

City Centre Opens

(Continued from page 1)

Shops selling non-essential items including jewellery, clothes, brassware, metal vessels, hardware, watches, TV and mobile repair shops, electronic shops, computer and peripherals, electronic and garment accessories shops, sarees and clothing showrooms, ready-made textile shops, decorative and novelties, beddings and sofa outlets, tailor and welder shops, automobile parts and accessories, plastic and cosmetic shops opened their shutters after a long hiatus.

As the MCC notification came last evening, shop-keepers hurried to clean and open up their outlets as early as 7 am. On Devaraj Urs Road and Sayyaji Rao Road and Makkaji Chowk that usually opens up at 10 am, employees, salesman and salesgirls of shops were seen standing in front of the outlets hours before the shop owners arrived.

A couple of them told *Star of Mysore* that they had come early as there was a threat of layoffs, downsizing and job security. "At least if we come early, we can be in the good books of our bosses," they said. After several rounds of dusting, cleaning and rearrangements of goods, decked up and smartly clad mannequins were brought out of cloth shops to attract customers.

However, salons, beauty parlours, spas, cinemas, malls, temples, mosques and churches were not allowed to open and even autos, taxies and buses did not operate as there will be close human contact and the risk is high. Though the shops opened up early, very few of them got customers early as many customers are scared to venture out and with many still focussing only on buying essential commodities. However, business picked up by noon.

Govt. forms Task Force to attract MNCs leaving China

Bengaluru, May 14- With many Multi-National Companies (MNCs) opting to leave China following the outbreak of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic, the Karnataka Government has wasted no time in constituting an Investment Promotion Task Force to attract companies and manufacturers leaving China.

Large and Medium Scale Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar had held a meeting in this regard a few days ago, following which the Government has constituted the Special Task Force to attract investors leaving China, to the State.

The Task Force will be headed by the State Chief Secretary. It will have 15 members who include Additional Chief Secretary of Finance Department, Principal Secretary of the Department of Industries and Commerce, other top officials and representatives of USA, South Korea, Taiwan, France, Germany etc., based companies already operating in the State.

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ನೋಟರಿಯಾಗಿ ನೇಮಕ
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COVID-19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	5,285
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	4,762
Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers)	:	521
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	2
Total samples tested	:	5,538
Samples found negative	:	5,448
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	90
Persons cured / discharged	:	88
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	31
Persons cured / discharged	:	14
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	981
Persons cured / discharged	:	456
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	35
Total active cases in India	:	49,219
Persons cured / discharged	:	26,234
Death toll so far in India	:	2,549

(Note: Some of the figures of Mysuru are as on May 13. Media bulletin for May 14 not available)

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